<u>REMARKS</u>

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 3 and 4 being the independent claims.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter in the form of an algorithm and a signal.
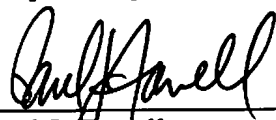
Regarding the §101 rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-10, Independent Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended to more clearly recite statutory subject matter in accordance with the suggestions provided by the Examiner in a telephone interview held on August 29, 2008.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a computer implemented method, stored in a computer readable medium, for training a neural network to perform decoding of a time-varying signal comprising a sequence of input symbols, which is coded by a convolutional coder such that each coded output symbol depends on more than one input symbol. A plurality of successive input symbols are provided to the neural network and to the convolutional coder. The outputs of the neural network are compared with the input symbols. Parameters of the neural network are adapted to reduce differences between the neural network outputs and input symbols. The providing, comparing, and adapting steps are repeated until the differences are reduced below a threshold and the neural network substantially operates as a decoder of the convolutional coder. The input symbol is provided to the decoder with the plurality of output symbols. Independent Claims 3 and 4 have been amended in a similar manner.

Regarding Claims 2 and 6-10, while not conceding the patentability of the dependent claims, *per se*, Claims 2 and 6-10 are also patentable for at least the above reasons. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are allowable, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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